

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The text of all pending claims (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strike through~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please CANCEL claims 1-20, 30, 34, and 40 without prejudice or disclaimer. Please ADD new claim 41. Please AMEND claim 21 to read as follows:

1-20. (CANCELLED)

21. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus to feed paper in an image forming device, comprising:

a feeding stand to receive a plurality of papers;

a separating guide provided to the feeding stand inclined at a predetermined angle with which a front end of the plurality of papers makes contact;

a main pickup roller to transfer the plurality of papers towards the separating guide using a frictional force generated by rotational contact with the plurality of papers;

an auxiliary pickup roller to apply a predetermined pressure on the plurality of papers upon transfer of the plurality of papers via the main pickup roller; and

an exciting unit to prevent overlapped transfer of the plurality of papers by providing vibration to the plurality of papers; and

a power transferring unit to provide power to the main pickup roller,

wherein the exciting unit is provided as a pair of exciting units provided at each end of the power transferring unit.

22. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein an operating torque applied to the main pickup roller is uniformly controlled.

23. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 21, wherein a vertical application force including pressure applied by weight of the auxiliary pickup roller is set larger than a buckling force of each of the plurality of papers to induce buckling between the auxiliary pickup roller and the separating guide by front end resistance force of the separating

guide.

24. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the plurality of papers are caused to slip against the separating guide at a front end of each of the plurality of papers so that the auxiliary pickup roller is raised up.

25. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the auxiliary pickup roller is rotatably installed to an axis of the main pick up roller.

26. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the separating guide has a predetermined slope.

27. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus according to claim 26, wherein the separating guide further comprises:

a plurality of friction members attached to a surface portion of the separating guide.

28. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus according to claim 21, further comprising:

a pickup arm to support the main pickup roller.

29. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus according to claim 28, wherein the auxiliary pickup roller is installed between the main pick up roller and the separating guide through the pickup arm.

30. (CANCELLED)

31. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus according to claim 29, further comprising:

at least two supporting plates to support the auxiliary pickup roller between the main pickup roller and the separating guide.

32. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 31, wherein each of the at least two supporting plates comprises:

a first connecting part rotatably connected with a rotational axis of the main pickup roller;

and

a second connecting part to which the auxiliary pickup roller is rotatably installed.

33. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 32, further comprising:

an elastic member having a torsion spring with one end connected with the rotational axis of the main pickup roller and another end connected with each of the at least two supporting plates, to provide pressure to the plurality of papers.

34. (CANCELLED)

35. (WITHDRAWN) The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the auxiliary pickup roller is provided within a predetermined distance from the separating guide.

36. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the main pickup roller is caused to operate at a constant operational force.

37. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 21, wherein an additional auxiliary pickup roller is provided to apply the predetermined pressure on the plurality of papers.

38. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 37, wherein a contact area caused by the additional auxiliary pickup roller and the auxiliary pickup roller to each of the plurality of papers as a result of the additional auxiliary pickup roller is less than a contact area without the additional auxiliary pickup roller, causing pressure application force per unit area to increase.

39. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the auxiliary pickup roller is merely rotated by frictional force created when each of the plurality of papers picked up by rotation of the main pickup roller passes through the auxiliary pickup roller.

40. (CANCELLED)

41. (NEW) An apparatus for separately feeding papers, comprising:
a main pickup roller picking up an uppermost one of the papers to transfer the one of the papers towards a separating guide by applying a constant operating force;
an auxiliary pickup roller applying a pressure to the one of the papers corresponding to a

respective thickness of the papers, upon transfer of the one of the papers; and

an exciting unit vibrating the picked up one of the papers, the exciting unit being a pair of exciting units at each end of a power transferring unit transferring power to the main pickup roller.